

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-39 (canceled)

1 Claim 40 (currently amended): An information acquisition  
2 device which acquires digital information from a server,  
3 the information acquisition device comprising:  
4 an image capturing unit obtaining image data by  
5 capturing a subject image formed from a shooting light  
6 input through a taking lens;  
7 a first transmission unit ~~[[having directivity and]]~~  
8 transmitting, wirelessly, an information request signal  
9 that includes an information request, without specifying  
10 any destination address of the information request signal  
11 ~~[[in a direction of the directivity]];~~  
12 a reception unit receiving a radio signal addressed  
13 to the reception unit and transmitted wirelessly from the  
14 server in response to the information request signal  
15 transmitted by the first transmission unit, and acquiring  
16 information contained in the radio signal;  
17 ~~[[an information addition unit adding at least an~~  
18 ~~address of the reception unit to the information request~~  
19 ~~signal to be transmitted;~~  
20 ~~an image capturing unit obtaining image data by~~  
21 ~~capturing a subject image in a same direction as the~~  
22 ~~directivity direction of the signal transmitted by the~~  
23 ~~first transmission unit;]]~~  
24 an information request creation unit creating the  
25 information request signal that includes an address of  
26 the reception unit;

27 an information storage unit storing the image data  
28 captured by the image capturing unit in addition to the  
29 information acquired by the reception unit; and  
30 ~~[[an information presentation unit presenting all or~~  
31 ~~a part of the information or image data stored in the~~  
32 ~~information storage unit, the information acquired by the~~  
33 ~~reception unit, or the image data captured by the image~~  
34 ~~capturing unit; and]]~~  
35 an operation unit issuing an instruction to ~~[[start~~  
36 ~~acquiring information]]~~ transmit the information request  
37 signal by the first transmission unit and to capture an  
38 image obtained by the image capturing unit in one user  
39 operation ~~[[of a plurality of modes]]~~,  
40 wherein the first transmission unit has directivity  
41 and radiates the information request signal in a  
42 direction corresponding to an optical axis of the taking  
43 lens, and the reception unit has ~~[[at least]]~~ one of (A)  
44 no directivity and (B) broader directivity than the first  
45 transmission unit.

1 Claim 41 (currently amended): The information  
2 acquisition device according to claim 40, further  
3 comprising:  
4 a mode ~~[[setting]]~~ selecting unit ~~[[setting]]~~  
5 selecting a mode from ~~[[one of the plurality of modes,~~  
6 ~~which includes]]~~ (1) an information acquisition mode, (2)  
7 an image capture mode and (3) a mix mode,  
8 wherein the operation unit issues an instruction (A)  
9 to ~~[[start acquiring]]~~ transmit the information request  
10 signal to the server only ~~[[information in]]~~ during the  
11 information acquisition mode, (B) to ~~[[start capturing]]~~  
12 capture an image only ~~[[an image in]]~~ during the image

13 acquisition mode, or (C) to ~~[[start acquiring an]]~~  
14 transmit the information request signal to the server and  
15 to capture ~~[[information and capturing]]~~ an image ~~[[in]]~~  
16 during the mix mode.

1 Claim 42 (currently amended): The information  
2 acquisition device according to claim 40, further  
3 comprising:  
4 an information transmission unit externally  
5 transmitting the information or the image data stored in  
6 the information storage unit, the information acquired by  
7 the reception unit, or the image data captured by the  
8 image capturing unit.

1 Claim 43 (currently amended): The information  
2 acquisition device according to claim 42, further  
3 comprising:  
4 a selection unit selecting the information or the  
5 image data stored in the information storage unit,  
6 wherein the information transmission unit externally  
7 transmits the information or the image data selected by  
8 the selection unit.

1 Claim 44 (currently amended): The information  
2 acquisition device according to claim 43, wherein the  
3 information transmission unit transmits information to an  
4 address indicating a predetermined destination.

1 Claim 45 (currently amended): The information  
2 acquisition device according to claim 40, further  
3 comprising:

4        a setting unit setting information relating to a  
5   type of information received and acquired by the  
6   reception unit,  
7        wherein the information ~~[[addition]]~~ request  
8   creation unit further ~~[[adds]]~~ includes information  
9   relating to a type of information set by the setting unit  
10   in the information request signal ~~[[to the signal to be~~  
11   ~~transmitted]]~~.

1   Claim 46 (currently amended): The information  
2   acquisition device according to claim 45, further  
3   comprising:  
4        an information screen unit screening the information  
5   received by the reception unit,  
6        wherein information to be acquired is selected by  
7   the information screen unit from the information received  
8   by the reception unit, and the screened information is  
9   stored in the information storage unit.

1   Claim 47 (currently amended): The information  
2   acquisition device according to claim 46, wherein  
3   screening standards of the information screened by the  
4   information screen unit designate a type of information  
5   set by the setting unit, and only the information of the  
6   type set by the setting unit is stored in the information  
7   storage unit.

1   Claim 48 (currently amended): The information  
2   acquisition device according to claim 45, wherein the  
3   information relating to the type of identification  
4   relates to at least one of a size of information, a type  
5   of information, a style of information, a file format of

6 information, a content of information, and a field of  
7 information.

1 Claim 49 (currently amended): The information  
2 acquisition device according to claim 45, wherein the  
3 information relating to a type of information refers to  
4 information indicating a same target and a different type  
5 of information size.

1 Claim 50 (currently amended): The information  
2 acquisition device according to claim 49, wherein the  
3 information relating to a type of information includes  
4 information relating to at least one type of common  
5 information, summary information obtained by summarizing  
6 the common information, and address information in a  
7 network containing information.

1 Claim 51 (currently amended): The information  
2 acquisition device according to claim 40, further  
3 comprising:  
4 a server address extraction unit extracting a server  
5 address designating an information providing source  
6 contained in the information acquired by the reception  
7 unit; and  
8 a second transmission unit transmitting a signal in  
9 a style different from a style of the first transmission  
10 unit.

1 Claim 52 (currently amended): The information  
2 acquisition device according to claim 51, wherein the  
3 second transmission unit transmits by wireless a signal  
4 using an electromagnetic wave including light and a sound

5 wave including ultrasonic, and the signal transmitted by  
6 wireless from the second transmission unit has no  
7 directivity or has broader directivity than the signal  
8 transmitted by the first transmission unit.

1 Claim 53 (currently amended): The information  
2 acquisition device according to claim 52, wherein when  
3 the information received by the reception unit is address  
4 information in a network in which the information exists,  
5 the second transmission unit transmits an information  
6 request signal to the server address extracted by the  
7 server address extraction unit.

1 Claim 54 (currently amended): The information  
2 acquisition device according to claim 52, further  
3 comprising:  
4       an information presentation unit presenting all or a  
5 part of the information acquired by the reception unit,  
6 or the image data captured by the image capturing unit;  
7       a selection unit selecting at least an information  
8 item from the information presented by the information  
9 presentation unit; and  
10       an ID information addition unit adding information  
11 ID designating information corresponding to the  
12 information item selected by the selection unit to the  
13 signal to be transmitted, wherein the first transmission  
14 unit or the second transmission unit transmits the signal  
15 to be transmitted.

1 Claim 55 (currently amended): The information  
2 acquisition device according to claim 40, further  
3 comprising a warning unit giving a warning when the

4 information acquired by the reception unit is incomplete  
5 or when it is determined that information cannot be  
6 completely acquired.

1 Claim 56 (currently amended): The information  
2 acquisition device according to claim 52, wherein the  
3 first transmission unit or the second transmission unit  
4 retransmits the signal to be transmitted when the  
5 information acquired by the reception unit is incomplete  
6 or when it is determined that information cannot be  
7 completely acquired.

1 Claim 57 (currently amended): The information  
2 acquisition device according to claim 55, wherein the  
3 warning unit gives a warning when a size of the  
4 information acquired by the reception unit exceeds a  
5 predetermined size or a free storage capacity of the  
6 information storage unit.

1 Claim 58 (currently amended): The information  
2 acquisition device according to claim 55, wherein the  
3 warning unit gives a warning when the information  
4 received and acquired by the reception unit relates to a  
5 size of continually transmitted information, and the size  
6 of the information exceeds a predetermined size or a free  
7 storage capacity of the information storage unit.

1 Claim 59 (currently amended): The information  
2 acquisition device according to claim 58, wherein when  
3 the size of the information acquired by the reception  
4 unit exceeds a predetermined size or a free storage  
5 capacity of the information storage unit, the information

6 is automatically changed to the information relating to a  
7 type of information of a smaller size, the information  
8 ~~[[addition]]~~ request creation unit creates a second  
9 information request including ~~[[adds]]~~ the information  
10 relating to the type of information ~~[[to the signal to be~~  
11 ~~transmitted]]~~, and the first transmission unit or the  
12 second transmission unit retransmits the ~~[[added]]~~  
13 information request signal ~~[[to be transmitted]]~~.

1 Claim 60 (currently amended): The information  
2 acquisition device according to claim 40, further  
3 comprising:  
4 an information size setting unit setting a maximum  
5 value of a size of information that can be received and  
6 acquired by the reception unit,  
7 wherein the information ~~[[addition]]~~ request  
8 creation unit further ~~[[adds]]~~ includes information  
9 relating to the maximum value of the size of the  
10 information that can be acquired and is set by the  
11 information size setting unit to the information request  
12 signal ~~[[to be transmitted]]~~.

1 Claim 61 (currently amended): The information  
2 acquisition device according to claim 60, wherein the  
3 information size setting unit automatically sets the  
4 maximum value of the size of the information that can be  
5 acquired into the free storage capacity of the  
6 information storage unit.

1 Claim 62 (currently amended): The information  
2 acquisition device according to claim 40, further  
3 comprising:



4        a user information storage unit storing information  
5 relating to a user of the information acquisition device,  
6        wherein the information ~~[[addition]]~~ request  
7 creation unit further ~~[[adds]]~~ includes the information  
8 relating to the user and stored in the user information  
9 storage unit ~~[[to the signal to be transmitted]]~~ in the  
10 information request signal.

1    Claim 63 (currently amended):    The information  
2 acquisition device according to claim 40, further  
3 comprising:  
4        an equipment information storage unit storing  
5 equipment information about the information acquisition  
6 device,  
7        wherein the information ~~[[addition]]~~ request  
8 creation unit further ~~[[adds]]~~ includes the equipment  
9 information stored in the equipment information storage  
10 unit ~~[[to the signal to be transmitted]]~~ in the  
11 information request signal.

1    Claim 64 (currently amended):    The information  
2 acquisition device according to claim 63, wherein the  
3 equipment information contains at least one or more of a  
4 maker name ~~[[of the information acquisition device]]~~, a  
5 model number, a product serial number, and version  
6 information about firmware of the information acquisition  
7 device.

1    Claim 65 (currently amended):    The information  
2 acquisition device according to claim 40, further  
3 comprising:

4        an information acquisition history storage unit  
5        storing information designation information designating  
6        the information received by the reception unit; and  
7        an acquired information determination unit  
8        determining whether or not information newly received by  
9        the reception unit has been acquired before according to  
10       the information designation information about the newly  
11       received information,  
12       wherein the information storage unit stores  
13       information determined by the acquired information  
14       determination unit that the information has not been  
15       acquired in the information received by the reception  
16       unit.

1       Claim 66 (currently amended): The information  
2       acquisition device according to claim ~~[[30]]~~ 65, wherein  
3       the information designation information stored in the  
4       information acquisition history storage unit is  
5       information containing either one of an address of a  
6       device which transmits the signal received by the  
7       reception unit or the information ID assigned to the  
8       information received by the reception unit.

1       Claim 67 (currently amended): The information  
2       acquisition device according to claim 41, further  
3       comprising:  
4             a detection unit detecting that there is an  
5             information providing device capable of providing  
6             information for the information acquisition device in the  
7             direction of the directivity.

1 Claim 68 (original): The information acquisition device  
2 according to claim 67, wherein the detection unit further  
3 comprises:  
4 an issued signal reception unit receiving an issued  
5 signal from the information providing device; and  
6 a notification unit notifying that there is the  
7 information providing device detected when the issued  
8 signal is received by the issued signal reception unit.

1 Claim 69 (original): The information acquisition device  
2 according to claim 67, wherein when the detection unit  
3 does not detect presence of the information providing  
4 device, an information acquiring operation is not  
5 performed.

1 Claim 70 (currently amended): The information  
2 acquisition device according to claim 67, wherein when  
3 the detection unit does not detect existence of the  
4 information providing device, and when the mode  
5 ~~[[setting]]~~ selecting unit ~~[[sets]]~~ selects ~~[[a]]~~ the mix  
6 mode ~~[[of acquiring both information and an image]]~~, an  
7 image is captured only as in the mode of acquiring only  
8 an image.

1 Claim 71 (currently amended): The information  
2 acquisition device according to claim 40, further  
3 comprising:  
4 a program update unit extracting a control program,  
5 and updating all or a part of the control program stored  
6 in the program memory to be updated based on the control  
7 program when the control program of the information

8 acquisition device is contained in the signal received by  
9 the reception unit.

1 Claim 72 (currently amended): The information  
2 acquisition device according to claim 71, further  
3 comprising:

4 an unreasonable program check unit detecting whether  
5 or not an unreasonable program is contained in the  
6 information acquired by the reception unit;

7 an unreasonable program warning unit giving a  
8 warning when it is detected by the unreasonable program  
9 check unit that an unreasonable program is contained in  
10 the information acquired by the reception unit; and

11 an unreasonable program deletion unit deleting  
12 acquired information when it is detected by the  
13 unreasonable program check unit that an unreasonable  
14 program is contained in the information acquired by the  
15 reception unit.

1 Claim 73 (currently amended): The information  
2 acquisition device according to claim 40, further  
3 comprising:

4 an encryption unit encrypting all or a part of the  
5 information ~~[[added]]~~ included by the information  
6 ~~[[addition]]~~ request creation unit ~~[[to the signal]]~~ in  
7 the information request signal ~~[[to be transmitted]]~~  
8 using an encryption key contained in the information  
9 received and acquired by the reception unit.

1 Claim 74 (currently amended): The information  
2 acquisition device according to claim 73, wherein the  
3 information ~~[[addition]]~~ request creation unit further

4   ~~[[added]]~~ includes the encryption key request information  
5   ~~[[to the signal]]~~ in the information request signal ~~[[to~~  
6   ~~be transmitted]]~~.

1   Claim 75 (currently amended): The information  
2   acquisition device according to claim 40, further  
3   comprising:  
4       an encryption key generation unit generating an  
5   encryption key and a decryption key; and  
6       a decryption unit decrypting encrypted information  
7   contained in the signal received by the reception unit  
8   using the decryption key,  
9       wherein the information ~~[[addition]]~~ request  
10   creation unit ~~[[added]]~~ includes an encryption key  
11   generated by the encryption key information generation  
12   unit ~~[[to the signal to be transmitted]]~~ in the  
13   information request signal.

1   Claim 76 (currently amended): The information  
2   acquisition device according to claim 40, wherein the  
3   reception unit further comprises a communication unit  
4   using a public network and receiving, regenerating, and  
5   communicating common voice through the public network.

Claims 77-134 (canceled)

1   Claim 135 (currently amended): An information providing  
2   method in an information providing system having an  
3   information acquisition device which acquires digital  
4   information and shoots an image, and an information  
5   providing device capable of providing information at an  
6   information request from the information acquisition

7 device, wherein~~[[+]]~~ the information acquisition device  
8 performs:

9 a detection step to detect ~~[[an]]~~ one user operation  
10 to start obtaining image data and acquiring information  
11 ~~[[acquisition]]~~;

12 an image capture and information reception step to  
13 obtain image data by ~~[[capture an]]~~ capturing a subject  
14 image ~~[[of a subject]]~~ formed from a shooting light input  
15 through a taking lens, and to receive by a reception unit  
16 the information transmitted from the information  
17 providing device; and

18 a storage step to store the received information and  
19 the captured image in an information memory of the  
20 information acquisition device,

21 wherein the information reception in the image  
22 capture and information reception step is performed,

23 at the information acquisition device as a step  
24 to create an information request signal that  
25 includes an address specifying a reception unit of  
26 the information acquisition device and a step to  
27 transmit wirelessly the information request signal  
28 from a first transmission unit without specifying  
29 any destination address of the information request  
30 signal, and

31 at the information providing device as a step  
32 to receive the information request signal from the  
33 information acquisition device, a step to extract  
34 the address of the reception unit of the information  
35 acquisition device from the received information  
36 request signal and a step to transmit wirelessly  
37 information read from an information database to the  
38 extracted address, and

39       wherein the first transmission unit has directivity  
40 and radiates the information request signal in a  
41 direction corresponding to an optical axis of the taking  
42 lens, and the reception unit has no directivity or has  
43 broader directivity than the first transmission unit.

44               ~~[[an address addition step to add at least an~~  
45 ~~address specifying a reception unit of the information~~  
46 ~~acquisition device to an information request signal at~~  
47 ~~least an address specifying a reception unit of the~~  
48 ~~information acquisition device;~~

49               ~~———— a request transmission step to transmit,~~  
50 ~~wirelessly, the added information request signal as a~~  
51 ~~signal having directivity in the direction of the~~  
52 ~~subject;~~

53               ~~—— the information providing device performs:~~

54               ~~———— a request reception step to receive the~~  
55 ~~information request signal transmitted by wireless from~~  
56 ~~the information acquisition device;~~

57               ~~———— an extraction step to extract the address of~~  
58 ~~the reception unit of the information acquisition device~~  
59 ~~from the received information request signal;~~

60               ~~———— an information transmission step to transmit,~~  
61 ~~wirelessly, information read at the information request~~  
62 ~~signal from an information database storing information~~  
63 ~~to be provided to the extracted address;~~

64               ~~—— the information acquisition device performs:~~

65               ~~———— an information reception step to receive by the~~  
66 ~~reception unit the information transmitted from the~~  
67 ~~information providing device; and~~

68               ~~———— a storage step to store the received~~  
69 ~~information and the captured image in an information~~  
70 ~~memory of the information acquisition device;~~

71       ~~wherein the reception unit has no directivity or has~~  
72 ~~broader directivity than the first transmission unit.]]~~

Claims 136-143 (canceled)

1   Claim 144 (currently amended): The method according to  
2   claim 135, wherein the information acquisition device  
3   performs  
4       a selecting step to select a mode from ~~[[one of a~~  
5 ~~plurality of modes which include]]~~ (1) an information  
6   acquisition mode, (2) an image capture mode and (3) a mix  
7   mode;  
8       when the information acquisition mode is selected  
9   then the image capture ~~[[step is skipped]]~~ and only the  
10   received information is saved ~~[[to]]~~ in the information  
11   memory in the storage step;  
12       when the information acquisition mode is selected  
13 then the image capture in the image capture and  
14 information reception step is not performed and only the  
15 received information is saved in the information memory  
16 in the storage step;  
17       when the image capture mode is selected then the  
18 information reception in the image capture and  
19 information reception step it not performed ~~[[from the~~  
20 ~~address addition step to the information reception step~~  
21 ~~are skipped]]~~ and the captured image is saved in the  
22   information memory in the storage step; and  
23       when the mix mode is selected then ~~[[from the~~  
24 ~~detection step to the storage step is performed]]~~ the  
25 image capture and information reception step is performed  
26 in the captured image and received information is saved  
27 in the information memory in the storage step.



Claims 145-265 (canceled)